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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0779
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0283
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0184
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0079
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0147
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 2906
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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2705
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0234
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 2275
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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KDEM](#) [MOPS](#) [LE](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: SPAIN: PRESERVING THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON

REF: STATE 193090

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) The DCM met with Spanish MFA Director General for Foreign Policy Rafael Dezcallar to discuss the ongoing effort of Syria and Hizballah to destabilize the legitimately elected Lebanese government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The DCM reviewed reftel demarche with Dezcallar and emphasized that now is not the time to send encouraging signals to Syria.

¶2. (S) Dezcallar replied that Spain's unequivocal policy is to support and bolster the Siniora government, as it represents the best chance for democracy and stability in the region. He said that Spain is under no illusions about the destabilizing role which Syria is playing in the region, both directly and through its proxy, Hizballah. However, Dezcallar noted that if one were to take a snapshot of the current political situation in the Middle East, one would see that Syrian President Al-Assad presently has no incentive to change his course. Dezcallar emphasized that the Western approach to Syria has been all stick and no carrot; as such, Spain has tried to reach out to Syria to offer an avenue for dialogue with the West. He reiterated, however, that Spain's primary objective is to help preserve the Siniora government.

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Llorens